1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	*n*	13
2001E	12,283	25.0	6,280	51.1	5,024	40.9	215	18	27	0.2	737	6.0
2002E	14,740	20.0	7,190	48.8	6,264	42.5	368	2.5	32	0.2	884	6.0
2003E	17,688	20.0	8,446	47.8	7,673	43.4	531	3.0	39	0.2	999	5.7
2004E	21,225	20.0	9,976	47.0	9,261	43.6	743	3.5	47	0.2	1,199	5.7
2005E	25,470	20.0	11,716	46.0	11,240	44.1	1.10.9	4.0	56	0.2	1,439	5.7

Discontinuance of DD News Channel

1439. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will The Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is planning to discontinue DD News Channel;

(b) if so, the amount of loss, so far, since its commencement;

(c) whether Prasar Bharati failed miserably to popularize the channel when other news channels are so popular; and

(d) whether Government have indentified the officers who are responsible for the huge losses and defaming Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As a part of Doordarshan restructuring, Prasar Bharati has, in principle, taken a decision to close down DD News and Current Affairs Channel due to its high cost and low visibility. The Board also decided that DD National Channel, which has the highest reach, will carry more programmes on news and current affairs to fulfil the mandate of public service broadcasting more effectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Marketing of International Sports events by Doordarshan

1440. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan suffered a loss of Rs. 140.88 crore in the marketing of international sports events through the Sports Marketing Consortium during 1999-2000;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative figures of such a loss during the fiscal year 20Q0-2001; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has initimated that the Sports Marketing Consortium was not in operation in. 1999-2000. It has further informed that Doordarshan did not suffer any loss during the financial year 2000-2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Guidelines for Cable Operators Regarding Charges

1441. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Ministerof INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more and more TV channels are becoming paid channels day by day;

(b) if so, the rates of subscription for each, at present;

(c) whether there are any rules/guidelines/instructions for cable operators regarding such charges which are hiked indiscriminately in Delhi and other places;

(d) whether Government propose to regulate these charges in consumers' interest;

(e) whether it is not possible for Government to take up the transmission of some popular private channels; and

(0 if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) There are no provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, or the Rules framed thereunder, to regulate subscription rates of the Pay Channels or of the Cable Operators. These charges are purely a contractual affairs between the Broadcasting Companies, Cable Operators and the subscribers and the rates are market driven. The existence of a large number of competing channels itself ensures protection of viewer interest which is further reinforced by existence of laws such as Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Consumer Protection Act, in addition totheMRTPAct.